



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/794,374	12/10/1996	CARL T. NELSON	LT-5-REISSUE	6586

7590 04/16/2004

MARK D ROWLAND
FISH AND NEAVE
1251 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NY 100201104

EXAMINER

RILEY, SHAWN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2838

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/794,374

Applicant(s)

NELSON, CARL T.

Examiner

Shawn Riley

Art Unit

2838

Am

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-82 and 84-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 82 and 84-92 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Detailed Action

1. Applicant has filed a continuation of 08/558,204 which was received in the USPTO mail room on 10 December 1996. Previously, Applicant filed a continuation of 07/683,549 which was received in the USPTO mail room on 16 November 1995. The only amendment found for either 08/558,204 or 07/683,549 therein updated the information regarding the parent case of this continuation. Therefore the original amendments and arguments filed 13 March 1995 have again been fully considered but they are still not deemed to be persuasive. In response to Applicant's argument (of 13 March 1995) that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the Examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily combined and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed combination of primary and secondary references. In re Nomiya, 184 USPQ 607 (CCPA 1975).

However, there is no requirement that a motivation to make the modification be expressly articulated. The test for combining references is what the combination of disclosures taken as a whole would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. In re McLaughlin, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). References are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures. In re Bozek, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA) 1969. In this case, the combination of UC3842 in view of the Texas Instruments reference (Types RC4193M, RC4193I and RC4193C micropower switching regulators) and the Texas Instruments reference (Type TL496C 9-Volt Power-Supply Controller in claims 86-92 and the combination of the UC3842 reference in view of LSH6335P reference, LSH6355P reference, Moreau, and Mashino in claims 82-85 is seen as a design choice (see below for a fuller explanation). The 102 (a) rejection of

claim 89 has been amended to reflect the applicant's latest revision of claim 89 stating, *inter alia*, no more than 5 terminal connection are required for operation. Applicant has correctly stated the law concerning the prior rejection based on 35 USC 251 which has been withdrawn. Further, by amendment, applicant has overcome all previous rejections and objections of the claims and specification based on 35 USC 112.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention

Art Unit: 2838

was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

3. Claims 86-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over UC3842 and further in view of the Texas Instruments reference (Types RC4193M, RC4193I and RC4193C micropower switching regulators) and the Texas Instruments reference (Type TL496C 9-Volt Power-Supply Controller. The UC3842 reference discloses the invention essentially as claimed including an input terminal - 7, a ground terminal - 5, an output terminal - 6, a feedback terminal - 2, a compensation terminal - 1, a power switching transistor - transistor of fig. 1, a circuit for varying the on and off duty cycle of the transistor - PWM latch, a circuit including a resistive element - R_{sense} , a circuit for generating an error signal - error amplifier, a circuit for comparing the current sense signal to the error signal - current sense comparator and said comparing circuit being responsive to control signals applied to the compensation terminal for limiting peak current and variably limiting current conducted by the switching transistor - Pg. 73 and Fig. 4.

Claims 86, 87, 90 and 91 additionally recite a shutdown state. The UC3842 reference however does not disclose a shutdown state of the regulator. The Texas Instruments Reference for Types RC4193M, RC4193I and RC4193C micropower switching regulators discloses on page 2-63 the RC4193 will shut off when pin 6 is below .5 volts and that this is used to shut down the regulator whenever the battery voltage drops. The TL496C reference discloses allowing minimal supply current drain during stand-by operation (see second paragraph of description). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add a shutdown state to the UC3842 switching regulator since the inventor of the

UC3842 would have been drawn to the beneficial feature of eliminating power-up sequencing problems taught by the references.

Claims 88 and 92 additionally recite a bipolar transistor. This feature is shown in Fig. 1 of the UC3842 reference. 4.

Claims 82 and 84-85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over UC3842 reference in view of LSH6335P reference, LSH6355P reference, Moreau and Mashino.

The UC3842 reference discloses (as described supra) the invention substantially as claimed. However, the UC3842 reference does not disclose at most five terminals. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention delete the five volt reference terminal and make both the setting of the time constant and the current sensing so that the time constant terminal and the current sense terminal are no longer necessary since it is known in the switching regulator art to include functions internally to reduce the number of terminals to five as taught by LSH 6335P, LSH 6355P and Moreau. Further, Mashino discloses the beneficial feature (i.e., a design choice) of reducing the number of terminals to simplify the production steps and reduce production costs.

Claim 85 additionally recites that the control signal is generated when the current sense signal equals or exceeds the error signal, respectively. The UC3842 reference discloses this feature on page 71.

Claim 84 additionally recites means responsive to control signals applied to the compensation terminal - pg. 73.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-81 are allowable over, the prior art of record. 6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.**

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

1. This is a continuation of applicant's earlier Application No. 08/558,204. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE


Art Unit: 2838

EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Examiner Riley whose telephone number is 571.272.2083. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30-6:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The Examiner's Supervisor is Mike Sherry who can be reached at 571.272.2084. Any inquiry about a case's location, retrieval of a case, or receipt of an amendment into a case or information regarding sent correspondence to a case **should be directed to 2800's Customer Service Center** at 571.272.2815. Any papers to be sent by fax MUST BE sent to fax number 703.872.9306. Any inquiry of a general nature of this application should be **directed to the Group receptionist** whose telephone number is 571.272.2800. Status information of cases may be found at <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> wherein unpublished application information is found through private PAIR and published application information is found through public PAIR. Further help on using the PAIR system is available at 1.866.217.9197 (Electronic Business Center).

14 April 2004


Shawn Riley
Primary Examiner